

50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The mounting intensity of the SED propaganda campaign in the Soviet-licensed press, contending that German rearmament in the Western Zones under Allied auspices is an accomplished fact, is believed to be setting the stage for decisive developments in the "People's Army". The following are typical samples of recent headlines in the Tägliche Rundschau: "Remilitarization of Western Germany a Fact", "First Police Forces, Then an Army Like the Reichswehr", "On the Lookout for German Cannon Fodder", "Arms for Mercenaries".
2. The official DDR announcement that a "People's Army" is being organized cannot be put off indefinitely in view of the increasing incidence of overt manifestations of the existence of such a force. Such an announcement could be timed either to rebut an official Allied protest or, if the latter is not forthcoming, it could take place once the public opinion is sufficiently prepared for the shock it is likely to entail.
3. Whereas the paramilitary Bereitschaften, prior to the reorganization in August 1949, maintained a semblance to a police character, its staff section being an integral part of the German Administration of the Interior, all pretense has now been dropped. The Hauptverwaltung für Ausbildung (Main Administration for Training), headed by the professional soldier Chefinspekteur Zeisser, is believed to be subordinated directly to the Soviet staff section called Department for Military Affairs, of which Major General Petrakovsky is in charge. This, in effect, places the control of military elements (schools and Bereitschaften) beyond the jurisdiction of German governmental authorities, deprives them of their police character, and places them in the chain of command of the Soviet Army. The evidence that personnel under the Hauptverwaltung für Ausbildung is trained for strictly military purposes is incontrovertible. A tank and artillery school is by no stretch of the imagination representable as conducive to the maintenance of internal law and order. Further conclusive evidence is derived from so-called Sovietniks, Soviet officers in field grade, who were made responsible for military indoctrination of effectives in the schools and Bereitschaften.
4. The remilitarization, though in flagrant violation of the international agreements to which the USSR was a party, has never been officially protested by the United States. A letter of protest drawn up by Public Safety, OMGUS, for signature by General Clay in November 1948 was disapproved.

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5. The impact on the average German of the realization that the Soviet Zone of Germany has embarked on a road to remilitarization will be dulled by SED propaganda capitalizing on sentimental appeals which the resuscitation of the German Army conveys, on the allegation that Western Germany made the first move thereby forcing the Eastern Zone to follow suit. The absence of Allied protests will be interpreted as tacit condonement of the unilateral Soviet action or an implied admission of guilt.
6. Conversely, a timely and outright condemnation of the "People's Army" as violating international agreement could be followed up with a coordinated propaganda campaign stressing the following points: East Germans, by supporting the remilitarization, openly are allying themselves with the Cominform conspiracy to disturb world peace by furthering imperialistic designs of the USSR. The application of the international law as modified in the Nuremberg verdict may render officers serving in the "People's Army" accountable as criminals; the "People's Army" is a mere appendix of the Soviet Army irrevocably tied to whatever moves the latter may be ordered to undertake. Such propaganda is likely to upset seriously the Soviet scheme to make the move palatable to the Soviet Zone Germans. It will also assist the United States and Allied agencies in their tasks to disrupt internal discipline and subordination of officers of the "People's Army".

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